

THE RIO NEWS.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, JANUARY 24TH, 1886

NUMBER 3

OFFICIAL DIRECTORY

AMERICAN LEGATION.—157, Rua das Laranjeiras.
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TRAVELER'S DIRECTORY

RAILWAYS.
DOM PEDRO II.—Through Express: Upward, leaves
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Porto Novo (branch from Entre Rios) 11.23 a.m.; Cachoeira (S.
Paulo branch) 11.43 a.m.; São Paulo (C.P.R.) 5 p.m.; Rio R.R. 6
p.m. Downward leaves São Paulo 6 a.m.; Lafayette 7.30 a.m.;
Porto Novo 12.40 p.m.; arriving at Barra 4.20 and Rio 6.55
p.m. Connects with Valença line at Desenzano; Rio
das Flores line at Commercio; União Mineira line at Ser-
rania; Oeste de Minas (S. João d'El Rey) line at São
Leopoldina line at Porto Novo; and S. Paulo and Rio de
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at Barra at 9.05 a.m.; Entre Rios 12.55 p.m.; Porto Novo
5.30 p.m. Cachoeira 6.00 p.m. Downward, leaves Cachoeira
at 6.40 a.m.; Porto Novo 6.30 a.m.; Entre Rios 10.58 a.m.;
arriving at Barra 1.14 p.m. and at Rio at 5.30 p.m.
Mixed Trains: Leave Rio at 8.30 a.m., and 3 p.m., the
first going to Entre Rios and the second to Barra do Piraí.
CANTAGALLO R.R.—Leaves Niterói (Sant'Anna) 7.15 a.m.,
arriving at Nova Friburgo 11.20; Coelho (1 hour
per train from Cantagallo) 11.20 and Macua 2.05 p.m.
Return train leaves Macua 8.15, Coelho 9.10 and Nova
Friburgo 11.20 p.m., arriving at Niterói 2.55 p.m.
A ferry boat runs between Rio and Sant'Anna, connecting with
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CORCOVADO R.R.—Trains leave the Station at Cosme
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Office, Rua Pinheiro de Marga No. 22. From 1 to 3 p.m.
Residence, Rua de S. Francisco Xavier No. 47.
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THE RIO NEWS

PUBLISHED TRIMONTHLY

for the mail packets of the 5th, 15th and 25th of the month.

A. J. LAMOUREUX, Editor and Proprietor.

Contains a summary of news and a review of Brazilian affairs a list of the arrivals and departures of foreign vessels, the commercial report and price current of the market, tables of stock quotations and sales, a table of freights and charters, a summary of the daily coffee reports from the Associação Commercial, and all other information necessary to a correct judgment on Brazilian trade.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, JANUARY 24th, 1886.

ACCORDING to our custom we print in another column the remarks with which the *Jornal do Commercio* prefaces its retrospect for the past year. We do this for the purpose of furnishing our readers with a perfectly unsuspected report on affairs in our market, and moreover as a proof that we are not alone in our appreciation of the position into which the empire has been allowed to drift. Three are the reasons the *Jornal* gives for the miserable results of 1885. First, the sterile agitation regarding emancipation. That it was sterile is directly attributable to the *cacochies loquendi* of the representatives of the nation, who consume valuable time in discussing the most trivial questions of merely local interest, and to this must be added the obstruction of the representatives, more directly, of the planters, whose alarm at the agitation caused them to hurry the realization of their crops; which showed, at least, very little confidence in the success of their representatives to convince by discussion the opposite party. Second, the syndicate losses, and the effect of these operations on consuming markets. We have our doubts as to whether the misleading estimates of the year's coffee crop may not have had quite as much to do with the course of consuming markets last year; for the syndicate operations must have been liquidated, so far as foreigners were interested, very early in the year. Third, the disbelief in any improvement in the position of the finances of the country; and that this disbelief was well founded, the course of exchange and the demands of the Treasury amply prove. Upon the conservative party assuming office, exchange improved and a general change for the better was expected, but the Treasury did not open any new road, following rather that of the preceding minister of finance, and distrust again appeared. We admit that it would have been difficult for the new minister of finance to have at once formed a plan for the immediate improvement of the national finances, with a dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies necessary, and all the electioneering work before the cabinet; but H. Ex. is no tyro and must have formed some idea of what he had to encounter when he took the portfolio, and, if unable to express personally his views as to future action, he could have availed of some companion to give an inkling of what the money market was likely to expect. Whether this were so, or not, now that the cabinet is likely to have an overwhelming

majority in the Chamber, the sooner this Sphinx-like mystery is put aside, the better will it be for government and trade.

THE difference between the stocks of coffee as given by our principal brokers has aroused the action of the factors, who, it seems have applied to the *Junta Commercial*, that the question may be liquidated. The *Junta Commercial* (a fossil about as useful to commerce as an Egyptian mummy) orders the Board of Brokers to investigate the matter, and the brokers in turn refer the matter to our three principal coffee brokers for a report. Our colleague of the *Diario* seemed surprised that the sub-committee did not at once make a report, and virtually charges that the unacknowledged interests of exporters have something to do with the delay. The difference seems to be some 50,000 bags, but not 80,000, nor 100,000 bags as our colleague claims, and this difference is far from the important factor in prices, that it is charged with being. The question arises from a claim that certain coffees were never reported as sold, although shipped in due course, and is therefore a matter of credence in one, or the other broker's statistics. Never in Rio de Janeiro has it been possible to estimate stocks of coffee with anything like exactness. We have no large warehouses where the coffee is stored, for it is sent from the railroad, of other entre-pôt, to the stores of the factors, thence to the stores of the packers, and our stock thus consists of: coffee at the railroad station; coffee at the factors'; and coffee at the dealers' or packers' stores. This last may be owned by the packer, or, already sold to exporters, be awaiting shipment. The verification of stock is therefore difficult in the extreme, even did not another feature enter into the question. This is the practice of selling coffees for delivery, from which it is perfectly clear, that if a dealer be applied to for his stock, and if upon the occasion, he has not in his possession the quantity of coffee for the delivery of which he is responsible, he will be very unlikely indeed to give up his exact stock, as this would be an equivalent to endangering his business. Therefore, it seems to us that less the exporter, than the packer is interested in any purposed miscalculation of stock. The correction of any intentional over-estimate in the stock lies between the factors and dealers; and this correction can no more become effective through the *Junta Commercial*, or the Brokers' Board, than it would be through our orders. No *Junta* can oblige a merchant to prejudice his business, which as we have pointed out might be the case, and therefore, we say that the matter of this difference should be a question of amicable agreement between factors and dealers. And that our view, as to the interested parties in the matter under discussion is the correct one, is proved by the action of the *Junta Commercial*, who reply to the petition of the factors, that no complaint can be made against the brokers, although for the good of all concerned, they will suggest to the Board the establishment of a permanent committee to take charge of the matter of stocks. The Brokers' board have appointed three brokers and the Associação Commercial three factors who will report on the matter. If, as it is charged, the receipts by the railroad are given in gross weight, it is certainly no difficult matter to deduct the tare, and as to the local consumption, it is a well known fact that this is largely supplied by sweepings and such over-plus of samples as are not requisite to furnish those forwarded by the shippers. It would of course be advantageous that an agreement should be come to by the brokers, but we can not see that 50,000 bags more or less in stock is of nearly so great an importance to exporters, as a difference of 300,000 or 750,000 bags in a crop estimate will be.

THE minister of justice has asked his colleague at the Foreign Office to obtain for him copies of various police regulations, such as are in force in London, Paris and Lisbon, and from this request it may reasonably be inferred that a reform, which has become more than necessary, in our police regulations is in prospect. Dr. Pedro de Barros was employed by one of the late liberal governments to compile police regulations, but so far as we could see from a rather superficial perusal of his work, the changes he proposed were more in name, than in substance. That the reform should be made must be the earnest desire of every one, and although we would naturally prefer that any changes should be based on the police laws of England and the United States, we have doubts as to the practicability of this for several reasons. From the very capture of a suspected party the procedure under British and Latin law is widely different. An English policeman warns his prisoner that any statements he may make will be used against him. He is even advised to plead "not guilty" at times. The officers of the law, in fact, assume all the responsibility of convicting the prisoner, and furnish him every opportunity of establishing his innocence, or even of, by legal assistance, obtaining a discharge upon technicalities of the law. Under Latin police regulations the system is just the contrary. The prisoner is confined for days, is submitted to many interrogatories by police officials, may even be threatened, and every artifice is used to induce a confession. From this it will be seen that it seems hopeless to expect any practical combination of the two systems. Any reform of our police regulations must therefore be based almost exclusively upon French, Portuguese or Italian regulations, any, or all, of which are probably an advance upon our present system. A great necessity in any projected change, and a feature of easy introduction, is the establishment of police courts, where petty offenses can be summarily dealt with, or from which prisoners charged with more serious crimes can be remanded to a higher authority. We have referred to this matter more than once, but the opportunity of calling attention to it at a time when a cabinet is in office that, relieved of political anxiety, may have time to investigate such matters, should not be lost. That the idea is practical and practicable no one can doubt. Each ward (*freguesia*) should have a police court presided over by paid magistrates appointed in sufficient number that relief might be secured to each individual in turn. To these courts should be presented all persons arrested by the police, and the presiding magistrate should have authority to punish petty offences with fine, and, or, imprisonment, or in case of serious crimes to remand the prisoner pending the police investigation, or to commit him for trial by a superior court, or the jury. The magistrates would have to be, we fear, lawyers, but we have no doubt that, among the numerous members of the profession, skillful and prudent magistrates could be secured. The system at present in practice seems to us extremely antiquated, and that it offers opportunities for abuses, such cases as the Castro Malta scandal, and nearly daily complaints of arbitrary action on the part of police subordinate authorities, amply prove. A prisoner is examined by a police delegate, who makes his report to a judge of a criminal court, who examines the testimony and in case this proves sufficient indicts the prisoner under such and such a clause of the criminal code. We constantly see the jury occupied with such trivial affairs as a fight between two terragants, a broken head, or a black eye, all classified as *offensas physicas leves*, but all sent up for trial by jury; whereas a police magistrate could settle the affair in half-an-hour, fine or imprison

the guilty party, to the great relief of the jury and the public prosecutor, and to the advantage of such serious cases as really call for the intervention of twelve citizens. If the minister of justice will introduce a law to establish these police courts, he will have done more for the establishment of order and the preservation of the peace than has ever been the case with any of his predecessors at the department of justice. We sincerely trust to live long enough to see the reform in practice.

ALTHOUGH the result was far from unexpected the success of the conservative party at the elections lately held throughout the empire calls for some remarks. Apart from the charges made of undue influence exercised by the government upon voters more or less dependent on it for their support, which charges are always impartially made by either party when in opposition against that in power, whatever be the political creed of the latter, the remarkable change of front on the part of the electoral body of Brazil proves one of two hypotheses. Either the electors (we do not say the country for reasons given below) of the empire are sincerely conservative and have under liberal governments voted against their consciences, or the electoral body does not represent the sentiment of the great mass of the Brazilian people, which is, we are again and again assured, firmly and conscientiously emancipationist, or even abolitionist as regards the slavery question. If we assume that the electors are conservatives by conviction, we become entangled by the very light vote cast, which would seem to prove that indifference is quite as much a feature in Brazilian politics as either conservatism or liberalism. In one district of this city, represented by this same liberal deputy for many years, the gentlemen was defeated in the most unequivocal manner, while the light vote cast shows that either the electors who formerly sent him in triumph to a seat in the Chamber have either abstained from exercising their right, whether from an antagonistic feeling towards the candidate, or from a feeling of despair that the party could obtain a majority, or they were no longer residents of his district. In the first case their opposition should have sought utterance at the polls; in the second it was nothing more nor less than cowardice. We confess we incline to the belief that in politics, as in so many other phases of public affairs in Brazil, the individuals earnestly interested in the question of slavery are led away by their enthusiasm to over-estimate the actual sentiments of what is called the Brazilian people. We are inclined to believe, and we heartily regret it, that the Brazilian people do not desire any greater advance on the road to civilization than is to be secured by a policy, which has been aptly described as "wait a bit" (*espere um pouco*). We see no consequences of public meetings described as being innumerable attended. The rockets are as impartially consumed for one, as for another successful candidate. An elector casts his vote influenced by purely personal interests, and the result is a victory for that party, which offers inducements. This as to the second hypothesis. We have ourselves referred to the fact that the electors represent but a small part of the male adult population of the country and the electoral body being circumscribed by the very unnecessarily severe clauses of the reform bill, which was however passed by a liberal government and endorsed by liberal legislators, the elections in Brazil express more the political views of a class, than that of a people. But this very reason, which our native colleagues are harping on now that it is too late, is a further proof of the cowardice of the liberals who feared to

meet their adversaries at the polls. It is all very well to say that an unanimous conservative Chamber will cause a revolution in political opinion. The leaders of the conservative party will not permit an unanimous Chamber to be elected. A sufficient opposition will be admitted; such as is described in that amusing work "The Member for Paris," whose duty will be to make violent attacks on the government, that the ballot finally may prove how firmly, conscientiously and enthusiastically is Brazil conservative. To summarize; the result of the elections is no more than another example of how little a foreigner can rely upon what is called public opinion in Brazil. We even doubt its existence, if our colleagues may be said to represent it; but if it be represented by the *Praga do Commercio*, then the advance in exchange and in *apólices* proves conclusively that Brazil besides being essentially agricultural, is essentially conservative. We are heartily glad that the cabinet has secured a good majority. This fact will allow of some attention being paid to most important matters, matters that are of vital importance. First the settlement of the floating debt; then vigorous measures to secure immigration, included in which are laws for civil marriages, baptisms and funerals; then the great naturalization law, all of which promised under liberal auspices are likely, if ever, to become effective under conservative governments. If we add to these a reform of the electoral law, which so far has proved to be far from effective, and a petition that the Saraiá emancipation project be modified, we readily see that the government of Barão de Cotegipe has sufficient work before it.

"We learn that the minister of finance is studying a plan relative to obligatory payments in gold of custom-house duties on imports, with an abatement of 25 to 30 per cent. on the 60 per cent. additional."—*Diário de Notícias*, 22 January.

If the rumor that has reached our colleague be true, then the minister of finance deserves applause for his cogitations. We have an idea that the minister and ourselves must be in psychological contact, for when we were writing of the necessity of explaining the projects of the Treasury, H. Ex. was cogitating upon the very point, to which we have so often referred. Psychology aside, if the minister can pass the law to levy import duties in gold, we can but think that a step in advance has been made. Let us examine the question, however, under a purely business aspect.

A bale of goods pays at present specific duties..... 100\$00-0
60 per cent. additional..... 60 000

or at 18*d* exchange..... 160\$000
Under the new project the duties will be as above..... 100\$000
25 per cent. additional..... 25 000

or at 27*d* exchange..... 125\$000
..... 14-1.3

an apparent loss of 35\$000 to the revenue, and an increase of £2.1.3 of duties to the importer. But if the examination be continued, it will be found that the payment of duties in gold will cause such an appreciation of the gold value of our token money that this difference will tend to disappear. That duties in gold may equipoise the present duties in currency an exchange of about 23*d* is necessary, and whether this be possible is the knot of the question. We consider that the payment of duties in gold, by relieving the exchange market of government necessities, would almost immediately cause an advance in rates. Duties as paid, in coin or its equivalent in bills of exchange, would be forwarded to the Treasury and furnish the fund from which would be supplied the payments due in bullion to foreign creditors. The Treasury would no longer have any occasion to appear as a taker of exchange, payment of

which must be made in currency, and that its withdrawal from the market would at once cause rates to advance is incontestable. The practical working of the possible change requires more study. If, as during the Paraguayan war, the customs officials claim payments in coin, the sovereign will become the great medium of payment, and as has been pointed out in our columns its use will lead to certain difficulties of far from easy solution. Bills of exchange are more practical, but are open to the objection that sterling, francs, reichs-marks, or dollars may be tendered; all of these representing bullion and where the drawer deserves credit, equally a tender for duties. Therefore any attempt at levying duties in gold should be based upon the tender of sovereigns. The amount of actual coin would not necessarily be very considerable, for payments in gold at the custom house to-day would be deposited in the Treasury to-morrow, and might appear upon the market on the following day, if the Treasury required to take exchange with its coin. We doubt whether £200,000 in gold, under existing circumstances, would not suffice to meet the needs of our market. The great drawback is the probability that light sovereigns would appear. Human nature is fallible, and if 20 shillings worth of duties can be met by a payment of 19*s* 11*d* 4 advantage will be taken of this and current, although light, sovereigns imported for the purpose of paying duties. So long as the sovereign passes from the Treasury to the banks and from these to merchants to be again paid into the custom houses, no inconvenience or loss may result, but after a series of years the wear and tear will be so considerable that loss is certain to fall upon some one, and this some one is likely to be the government. Therefore it was suggested to issue certificates against bullion. Remaining on deposit there will be less abrasion and the certificates do away with that counting, which is so tedious and unnecessary. We are perhaps officious in furnishing advice gratis to the Treasury officials, but have little doubt that our crude ideas will meet with the proper attention from the statesmen who are appointed to guide the ship of state.

COFFEE PLANTING IN BRAZIL.

The *Malras Mail* of November 26th last has an article under the above heading which is inspired by the perusal of extracts from Mr. van delden Laerne's work on coffee, which were published in the *Ceylon Tropical Agriculturist*. As the writer in the *Mail* does not seem to have any personal knowledge of Mr. van delden Laerne's book, we cannot, but think some of his criticisms useless, while some of his statements are absolutely devoid of fact. Among the latter are such as that the smaller planters are gradually abandoning their coffee plantations and planting food crops. Small planters are, worst luck, but rare in Brazil and have never had coffee plantations.

Then, it is stated that in Santos (S. Paulo?) where the coffee is young, etc. in some cases the proprietors turn over their plantations for four years to a small farmer, who is bound to perform certain specified works each season and to fill up all vacancies in the coffee, being allowed in return to plant any crop he likes between the trees, and he also receives a certain payment at the end of his lease. This is certainly somewhat modifying Mr. van delden Laerne's statement, for he says this is only occasionally done where the planter having planted the trees, does not wish to care for their cultivation. It is undoubtedly more an exception than a practice, which it would appear the *Mail* understands it to be.

"But in spite of the vitality of their trees there can be no doubt that the cultivation of coffee in Brazil is rapidly decaying. People shrink from

opening new land, not only an account of the low prices obtained for their produce, but they can no longer be certain of being able to gather the fruit of their labour. The gradual extinction of slavery is being accomplished by law notwithstanding all the efforts of the owners to retard the movement. Gangs of emancipated blacks go about the country over-awing Municipalities and other large owners (*sic*) and obliging them to free their slaves. The question of importing labour does not appear to have been practically approached; and the Government of India would be unwilling to allow its subjects to immigrate to a country whence reports of shocking outrages on the coloured population still occasionally find their way into the English papers.... It seems, then, as if a steady diminution of the Brazilian coffee export may be expected.

The above extract contains some truth mixed with a great deal of ignorance as to Brazil. The cultivation of coffee may not be extending as rapidly as it did under the very high prices ruling here in 1872-73, but the trees then planted, or planted since, are now about in their prime, and that plantations are extended is proved by the numerous advertisements of judicial sales of plantations, in which are always specified very considerable quantities of young trees.

The gangs of emancipated blacks who over-awe Municipalities and other large owners is most amusing. A gang of emancipated blacks would strike such terror into the souls of Municipalities, and other large owners, that our whole army, navy and marine corps would be insufficient to produce confidence and quietude for the planters. This expression must arise from some misapprehension on the part of the *Mail*. Municipalities can hold no slaves in Brazil, and gangs of freedmen who over-awe planters never existed.

That no practical attempt has been made to attract immigration and that slaves are shockingly ill-treated on the plantations are assertions we readily agree to. We have too often pointed them out to do otherwise, even were we so inclined, but these two assertions seem to us the only statements made in the article we are reviewing that do not clearly show so utter an ignorance of Brazilian affairs, as should have made the *Mail* very chary in placing before the world its remarks on coffee planting here.

That the Brazilian coffee crop tends to decrease statistics disprove, and if our statement be not deemed worthy of credence by the *Mail* we may refer the editor to the reports and figures of any of the London brokers; or even to Mr. van delden Laerne's work who at page 372 of the English translation says,

"The future of coffee planting in Brazil depends to a great degree on the nation itself. If the landowners could make up their minds, of course at the sacrifice of a good many private interests, to divide the large estates into small parcels, in order to sell these to the colonists, I am confident that the stream of agriculturists would flow more in the direction of Central Brazil, and that coffee planting there, after a temporary diminution of production in consequence of the emancipation of the slaves, would recover its former importance, if not exceed it."

We had occasion to refer to Mr. van delden Laerne's work when first published, and although we do not entirely agree with all his deductions, still the book certainly contains more information on coffee cultivation in the producing zones of this empire than any work yet published and we advise our colleague of the *Malras Mail* to purchase a copy, before again writing on Brazilian coffee planting.

SMOKING ON THE TRAMCARS.

To the Editor:

Sir.—Smoking on the tram-cars is a daily annoyance to a large numbers of passengers. It is almost impossible to ride any distance and escape the fumes of tobacco.

Now, I propose that the tram companies adopt a regulation prohibiting smoking except in the rear seats. In this way ladies, children and all who do not smoke, can easily avoid this nuisance, and the smokers will annoy no one but themselves. It is not a rare sight to see the front seat filled with men smoking to the annoyance of a whole tram full of passengers. Many ladies

and children have no means of getting out to the fresh air except by taking a ride on the tram-cars, and it is cruel to compel them to ride in the foul fumes of bad tobacco.

It is hoped that the tram companies will seriously consider this question, and adopt some such regulation as the one suggested, to protect their patrons from this nuisance. A large part of the smokers are only thoughtless in this respect and would willingly comply with such a regulation. If any, however, have no regard for the rights and feelings of others, they should be compelled to respect them. As Neal Dow says: "A man has no more right to poison the air I breathe than he has to poison the water I drink."

Truly yours,

A NON-SMOKER.

Rio, Jan. 25, 1886.

CAPIVARY CENTRAL SUGAR FACTORY.

We have received the following communication which we willingly print. The item to which our correspondent refers was, as all our provincial notes necessarily are, extracted from our exchanges.—Eds. Rio News.

Rio Janeiro, 16 Janvier 1886.
Monsieur A. J. Lamoureux,
79, Rue 7 de Septembre,
en Ville.

Votre estimable journal du 15 contenant un compte-rendu de la dernière campagne de l'usine centrale de Capivary, St. Paul, qui est tout-à-fait erroné, comme vous pourriez vous en convaincre par les données ci-contre, extraites des Balances officielles établies au 14 Oct. 1885 par les syndics de la Compagnie, déclarée en liquidation forcée.

Recevez Monsieur le Relecteur, l'assurance de ma parfaite considération.

ROLAND.

94, Rue de Richelieu.

Usine Centrale de Capivary.

Campagne 1885, commencée le 1^{er} Juillet et terminée le 31 du même mois, le gérant s'étant refusé à continuer la fabrication, laissant aux planteurs plus de 9,000 Tx. de cannes qui ont été perdus. Durée du travail 30 jours, y compris les arrêts continuels.

On a reçu environ 1,235,000 k^{os} de cannes payées..... Rs 11,525\$864
On a fabriqué environ 700 sacs sucre de 60 k^{os} en 1^{er} 2^{me} et 3^{me} qualité qui ont rendu..... Rs 10,107\$718

Différence en moins..... Rs 1,418\$146

Les frais ont été les suivants :

Bois à brûler..... Rs. 1,614\$000
Entretien des machines..... 1,176 380
Frais généraux..... 475 520
Salaires..... 9,510 006
Rs. 14,200\$052

Journal du Commerce, 9th Jan.

EXPORTS FROM RIO DE JANEIRO.

We annex a summary of the values of our exports in 1885, divided among the different articles and their destinations, as declared upon clearance :

Total Exports	Merchandise	Gold	Silver	Diamonds	United States	Europe	Elsewhere	Totals
67,555,814\$	67,540,814	14,900	183,808	4,000,954	28,904,021\$	12,775	99,287,975\$	99,287,975
					67,555,280\$	12,775	99,287,975	99,287,975
					1,064	894,814	99,287,975	99,287,975
					29,133	1,184	99,287,975	99,287,975
					35,205	95,542	99,287,975	99,287,975
					32,787	26,062	99,287,975	99,287,975
					553	8,281	99,287,975	99,287,975
					728	3,559	99,287,975	99,287,975
					633	1,189	99,287,975	99,287,975
					10,432	8,281	99,287,975	99,287,975
					101,892,574	1,267,704	99,287,975	99,287,975
					1,267,704	183,808	99,287,975	99,287,975
					102,808		99,287,975	99,287,975

We have modified these tables for the convenience of readers abroad. They are not official, but may be considered most creditable work, and as showing the increased interest our Brazilian colleagues are taking in statistics call for much praise.—Eds. Rio News.

Jornal do Commercio, 9th January.

RETROSPECT FOR 1885.

The future historian of the commerce of Rio de Janeiro, should he wish, benevolently, to express in terse phrases the nature of the period we have passed through, will have to qualify the year 1885, as a great halt in the activity of this important market, where are reflected, and moreover concentrated, the movement and interests of all others in the country.

If however, more severe in his decision, he should wish to be also more rigorous in its expression, he will say, we have arrived at a critical period, at that fatal instant when a situation, reaching the utmost gravity, must of necessity be solved, must become either better or worse, but cannot continue to be the same.

Lively hopes, the faithful companions of a new year would induce us to give a preference to the former of these hypotheses, did we not fear that from this soul-error would arise serious perils to our country, a blind, but not a pleasant error through which we have lost numerous years.

Our position is extremely unfavorable from whatever view it be regarded, economically, commercially, or financially. Tuit we were carried by a lamentable confusion of ideas, for we considered a peril as over, when we had ceased to think of it.

The deferring of the solution of a difficult question may be at times, as an occasional resource employed advantageously, but to advance it to a system, apply it always and to all things, is a grave mistake, principally in the high administration of a country.

From our attempts to procrastinate all questions offering any difficulty arises our present unfavorable position.

The year 1885 did not create it; it left it exactly as it found it, nothing done, nor anything attempted to improve it; it was an inert year, a period of liquidations and not of enterprise, or, as we have said, a real halt in the national activity.

Three kinds of influences become sensible in the year 1885; the sterile agitation of the pretended problem of the transformation of labour; the remembrances and the consequences of the imprudent operations of the coffee syndicates, and the lack of a belief in an improvement of the financial position.

Each, as we see, deferred questions!

The discussions and projects relative to the slave question occupied all the time of Parliament, from this result that other public interests could not be attended to, and the apprehensions and reserve of agriculture, to the prejudice of commerce, were increased. Uncertain and alarmed as to the future a good part of the planters used all diligence to realize their crops, to reduce their supplies, and also on their side to defer everything that could be held over. It is obvious that such resolutions did not help trade, nor increase its facilities, nor its profits.

The reminiscences of the vast speculative operations which were made in coffee during the preceding year were not yet effaced in the consuming markets, and influenced opinions every time that stocks in our market showed an increase under supplies a little larger than the average; hence constant irregularity in business, fluctuations and weakness in prices. On the other hand the liquidation of the heavy losses of the syndicates was urgent, nor was it any too early realized: although sacrifices were made and capital was displaced, commerce in none of its branches appeared to benefit from these, seeing upon the contrary its profits reduced by the diminished number and volume of new operations.

Finally, the position of the public treasury became worse; revenue fell off, whereas charges increased, principally those which have to be met abroad; as no regular budget was voted, not even an attempt could be made to equivoque the receipts and expenditure, and the necessities of the Treasury, always increasing, obliged it to enter into competition with trade at the counters of the banks, demanding in the division of supplies a lion's share.

Under such circumstances commerce could not, even with the best will expand nor show a result, while even this good will was wanting.

... We have seen the evidences of public debt in demand, as a shield for idle or uneasy capital; shares of industrial companies stationary or with little movement; the bank portfolios filling off, deposits increasing and no demand for money for trade operations.

A miserable result has 1885 left us!

Lamentations are not sufficient; however, it is necessary to shake off this national torpor which threatens to destroy us.

The time of an easy and comfortable life at the expense of cheap and forced labour has passed.

Slavery has existed; the old instrument of labour is lost and Brazil can no longer live upon the product of one only industry.

Only large immigration can restore to us prosperity, greatness and strength. Every sacrifice to attract it should be made, and made immediately, every necessary reform in our legislation required to level its path should be commenced at once, and without hesitation.

We are becoming impoverished; it is necessary to reduce expenses, to commence new works, suspend work on such undertakings as are in course of construction, stop subsidies, guarantees, ostentations and useless commissions. In this manner only can the people be asked for further sacrifices, new taxes, to which they will become resigned, when their profitable employment is verified.

Our credit is still solid: do not let us shake it by attempting European loans, and at home let us cease the issue of paper money, the principal cause of the fall in exchange, which, like a cancer, slowly devours all economies.

If in advanced countries, to the state only competes the maintaining of order, the guaranteeing of liberty, the securing of justice, under our condition it becomes necessary to awake individual initiative and not simply limit it to an idolatrous respect for theories, which daily facts are refuting all over the world.

Jornal do Commercio, 9th Jan.

HYPOTHECARY LAWS.

After a long discussion in each House of Parliament, after two petitions from the Associação Commercial of Rio de Janeiro and from the Centro da Lavoura e do Commercio, after a unanimous manifestation from the press, the dilatory laws that affected civil and commercial executions and sanctioned the absurd practice of forced adjudications, a scare-crow that was raised between commerce and agriculture whose intimate union based upon mutual confidence is an essential condition for the existence of credit, were destined in the near future to lend great services to the agriculture of the country, were revoked.

But, however, that the year 1885 should leave no completed performance, Decree N. 3,272 of October 5th, which changed various regulations regarding civil and commercial executions, ordered that forced adjudications should be maintained as to contracts made before the promulgation of the law.

Approved in October, 1885, the law had not come into force up to the end of the year, because the necessary *regulamento* had not been organized; thus measures were left unexecuted that had been considered necessary and urgent, and most important interests were left unprotected.

Standard, 10th January.

RIVER PLATE ITEMS.

Over 8,500 emigrants from Europe passed through the Lazaretto on Martin Garcia Island last week.

The news from Tandil about the harvest is exceptionally good. There are at present daily working 73 cutting machines and 11 steam threshers. The number of squares under wheat is 2,900, under maize 800, and under alfalfa 700. The wheat is excellent, very full, and will yield about 40,000 fanegas. The farmers have had to overcome tremendous stumbling blocks, and the bank has increased their difficulties by refusing to discount a cent.

The New Year that is dawning may be pregnant with transcendental results, but one fact is certain and that is that the vitality of the country is supreme in its ability to crush all impediments under its progressive feet and that the National Government has the will and the power to keep the political engine of the country on the right track. These are facts that capitalists and Argentine bondholders should keep in mind when their confidence in Argentine affairs begins to be shaken by the attacks of the London press, or by the prospects of political affairs here.

Nearly five hundred ocean steamers entered this port last year with 21,500 passengers and 108,687 immigrants. We may safely put the figure of immigrants at 115,000, the largest number that ever arrived in the Plate in a single year, as may be seen by the following table:

Year.	Immigrants.	Year.	Immigrants.
1860	5,656	1873	76,332
1861	6,301	1874	68,277
1862	6,716	1875	42,066
1863	10,408	1876	20,955
1864	11,682	1877	29,010
1865	11,767	1878	35,260
1866	13,606	1879	50,205
1867	17,046	1880	41,615
1868	29,234	1881	47,489
1869	37,934	1882	59,843
1870	39,607	1883	63,200
1871	29,926	1884	77,000
1872	37,037	1885	108,000

The above figures are the best barometer of the advance of the country from the days of penury of the Mitre epoch to the present sunshine of wealth and power.

—We cling to the belief that next year will see financial affairs slightly more straitened than in 1885, whilst the political effervescence will subside in face of the peaceful disposition of the sweeping majority of the country and of the strength of the National Government. The liquidation that is going on in the market, visible in the general shrinkage of business, will probably continue in 1886, but we may also witness the active reaction before another twelve-month, if the Government and Congress begin to retrench and cut down expenditure in the War, Navy and Education departments; but financial improvement is out of the question as long as the Government continues the present extravagant expenditure.

—Notwithstanding the gigantic speculation on the Bolsa during the year we close, no great fortunes were made or won, and in a Bolsa point of view 1885 was a dull year enough. That the country has, however, grown immensely in 1885 all admit; colonies, estancias, chacras, vineyards, sugar plantations, meat freezing companies, all show a remarkable increase on the previous year. In fact, some merchants think the year 1885 was the most progressive this country has ever known, and that spite of 'cruzo foroso' and every other check, if we march as we are going, the Plate in 1890 will be double what it is to-day in trade and productions, and with at least one million more inhabitants. Of course, there are complaints of losses in trade, tightness of money, fall in wool, failure of lino, &c., but the question to consider is, has any other country done better in 1885 than this? We think not, and we think we all have to be most thankful to a kind providence for so prosperous and beneficent a year. If any man had time to sit down and make a list of all the new houses built, all the new colonies, new estancias and sheepfarms started, all the new land ploughed up, all the new hands with their families that have settled down in the country during the year, all the new kilometres of railways laid and telegraphs put up, all the new industries formed and all the new capital that one way or the other has come into the K. Plate since 1884, he would indeed confer a favor on the public. We, who are at the face of the movement and see what is going on, admit our utter inability to make any such schedule of the country's march during the 12 months, and we admit that about the poorest stand-point one could take, from whence to judge the year's progress of the nation, is the Bolsa, which notwithstanding its great size and dimensions, it is not able to hold the emigrants that arrive in a single month.

RAILROAD NOTES.

—The November traffic receipts of the Bahia Central were 34,402\$30 and expenses 34,314\$290.

—The fiscal engineer of the Rio Claro railway reports the November traffic receipts at 54,404\$560 and expenses 22,030\$030.

—The November traffic receipts of the Natal and Nova Cruz railway were 11,257\$140 and expenses 17,632\$224; deficit 6,375\$084.

—From the dispatch of the minister of agriculture, dated 9th inst., to the fiscal engineer of the Rio Grande and Bagé railway, it appears that differences of exchange on remittances of revenue may not be charged to traffic expenses.

—The traffic receipts of the Príncipe de Grão Pará railway for the last six months of 1885 were 279,950\$360, of which 103,518\$800 from passengers and 153,944\$760 from goods. Expenses during the same time were 151,631\$914; balance 128,327\$446.

—The minister of agriculture on the 13th advised the fiscal engineer of the Paraná railway that when damage to, or loss of, goods may not reasonably be charged to the carelessness of employees of the company, such damages or losses may be charged to traffic expenses.

—By decree n. 9,546 dated 9th inst. the government waives its claim to the reversion of the Leopoldina railway in favor of the province of Minas Geraes. By a curious oversight the road was to revert to the general government and to the provincial also, but the action of the former settles the difficulty.

—The *Jornal do Commercio* of the 20th publishes the following communication, under the heading of the *Paraná railway*: During the past two months this road has had an enormous diminution of its revenue due to obstinacy (*terrosia*) in endeavouring to sustain the high tariffs at any cost. We point out some particulars to which we call the attention of the minister of agriculture; 40 litres of salt pay by rail 750—800 rs, besides cartage. By the Graciosa cart-road the waggons carry it, at 500 rs, and there is no cartage. Two serenos of maté, or 225 kilos, pay by rail 680\$00, by the Graciosa road 4\$500!!! Kerosene pays 2\$880, by wagon 500 rs!! A bag of coffee 1\$200, by the Graciosa road 700 reis!!!

PROVINCIAL NOTES.

—The December receipts at the Maranhão custom house were 202,931\$701.

—The receipts at the Ceará custom house in December were 110,631\$958.

—The December receipts at the Pará custom house were 816,450\$641, and for the year 1885, 7,983,621\$699.

—On the 18th inst the Campos Syntiente company commenced work for the water supply, etc. of that town.

—In December 1,708,036 kilos. of coffee were shipped from the Casa Branca, S. Paulo, station of the Mogiana railway.

—The December receipts, customs, etc. at the treasury agency in Sta. Catharina were 85,972\$325, against 77,826\$205 for the same month in 1884.

—The minister of marine has ordered the captain of the port of Alagoas to send to the Naval Museum such articles as have any historical value, old guns, etc. rusting there, and to sell the balance.

—Advices from S. Carlos de Pinhal, S. Paulo, estimate the growing coffee crop in that municipality at 800,000 bags. But for the drought the municipality would have produced 1,000,000 bags. We copy this.

—The number of slaves who become free under the recent law in the district of Mogi-mirim, S. Paulo, is 431, of whom 240 are over 65 years and 191 over 60 years old. The latter have to serve for three years.

—On the 6th, at his *fazenda* near Juiz de Fora, Minas Geraes, a planter died, leaving by 80 slaves free. He could not carry them with him, nor avail of their services. We have little patience with death-bed repentances.

—On the 19th the provincial authorities of Rio de Janeiro sent to the minister of justice the criminal statistics for 1884. If the delay is caused by the number of crimes, Rio de Janeiro must be an awfully wicked province.

—A daily colleague notices a robbery, somewhere in the province of Paraná, when 2,185\$007 was stolen. As 10 reis is the smallest coin in circulation in the empire, it would be interesting to know how that thief carried off 7 reis.

—By decrees dated 16th a custom house official from Santos takes charge of the Pará custom house, the inspector of this is removed to Ceará and a Pará official takes the post of the Santos official promoted. The inspector at Ceará takes the Pará vacancy. What can the matter be?

—The conservative chief of the 13th district of Minas Geraes was so distressed at the defeat of his favorite candidate at the late elections, that he committed suicide. We could have understood the candidate doing such a foolish act, but that a backer should show such sensibility astonishes us.

—The Piranga, S. Paulo, monument committee have agreed to pay Dr. Pedro Américo de Figueiredo 30,000\$ for a painting to represent the *Grito de Ipiranga*; that is, when H. M. D. Pedro I declared his intention of remaining in Brazil. The painting will be 6 to 8 metres long. Seamus cheap.

—The slave statistics of the province of Sergipe are published in the *Jornal do Commercio* of the 22nd.

Registered under the Rio Branco law....	35,187
Arrivals.....	8,654
Departures.....	11,658
Deaths.....	4,753
Emancipations.....	3,105
	19,516
	10,862

Slave population 30th June..... 24,325

—According to the *Jornal do Commercio* the following shows the slave movement in the province of Pernambuco since the Rio Branco law was passed:

Registered under the law.....	105,026
Arrivals.....	27,331
Departures.....	30,627
Deaths.....	12,554
Emancipations.....	9,070
	52,251
	24,920

Slave population 30th June, 1885..... 79,803

We make it 80,106, as does also the *Jornal*, but the figures given seem to be official.

—The *Jornal do Commercio* of the 14th publishes the following statistics of the slave population in the province of S. Paulo:

Slaves registered under the Rio Branco law	166,427
Arrivals since	77,585
	244,012
Departures	42,744
Deaths	31,699
Emancipations.....	16,299
	90,742

Slaves in the province, June 30, 1885..... 153,270

The *Jornal* considers this number much over-estimated and estimates at 135,000 the number of slaves likely to appear upon the new books of registry.

1881..... 23,917,240

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The policy adopted by The News at the outset was that of strict independence and impartiality. The editors had well-grounded convictions on political and economic questions, and as they believed that all such questions had a direct or indirect influence on commercial and financial enterprises they decided to discuss them just as far as their relative importance made it desirable. In this line of policy The News has been successful even beyond all expectation.

With the beginning of its 13th volume (January, 1886) the editors feel themselves warranted in calling attention to the uniform and general satisfaction with which their policy and management have thus far been received, and in advising their patrons that no deviation whatever from them will be made. The News will seek to keep its readers fully and accurately informed on all commercial questions, and upon all matters of Brazilian news or policy which may have more or less bearing upon any and all enterprises and investments. In its discussions it will treat every question frankly, and for the opinions expressed the editors will hold themselves personally responsible. In its news columns it will seek to keep its readers fully informed on all matters and occurrences throughout Brazil.

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